

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-102 and 155-157 have been canceled, without prejudice.

The Allowance of Claims 103-154 is acknowledged, with appreciation.

Claims 155-157 have been canceled, without prejudice, to advance prosecution.

The Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 155-157 will be moot upon entry of the above amendments.

The above amendments do not introduce new matter or present new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. Entry of the above amendments is requested. Entry of the above and a Notice of Allowance are requested.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner return an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449, filed with the Information Disclosure Statement on November 5, 2002, to the undersigned. A copy of the same was not received with the Office Action dated July 14, 2004 or previously. A copy of the previously-filed Form PTO-1449 with a copy of the postcard receipt of November 5, 2002 were submitted with the REQUEST of July 20, 2004.

The Examiner is also requested to acknowledge the applicants claim for domestic priority as the Office Action of July 14, 2004 does not include the same.

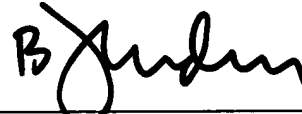
The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

SPRINGER et al.
Appl. No. 09/937,714
August 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. J. Sadoff", written over a horizontal line.

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